THE LEVITE

Vl. No. 8 Spring No. 1942

THE
MAGAZINE
OF THE
JOHN
WATSON
CLUB

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The Levite

SPRING NUMBER 1942 VOL. VI. No. 8

NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS.

Levites serving with the Forces or in any other form of Service are requested to notify the Secretary, Mr A. D. MURRAY, P.A.S.I., 46 Forrester Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh 12, giving their identification numbers.

The Secretary also requests that Levites making changes in their addresses should immediately notify him.

MSS. for the next number should be sent to the Secretary at the above address.

LEVITES SERVICES LIST.

(REVISED).

Crawford, J. A. (1907)—R.A.M.C.
Murray, R. H. (1916)—General List.
Macdonald, H. (1918)—Cameron Highlanders.
Macdonald, A. (1919)—Royal Merchant Navy.
Johnston, J. R. (1921)—Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve.
Cairns, J. (1921)—R.A.F.
Sellar, J. M. S. (1921)—R.A. (Searchlight Regt).
Macgregor, A. D. (1923)—R.A.
Smart, D. (1924)—Royal Armoured Corps.
Macdougall, R. I. (1925)—R.A.F.
Ogilvie, A. C. (1925)—R.A.F.
Ritchie, G. S. (1925)—R.A.F.
Gillespie, G. T. (1926)—R.A.F.
Cairns, J. (1926) R.A. (Searchlight Regt.).
Clark, A. E. (1926)—Royal Tank Regt.
Millar, W. M. (1927) R.A.M.C.
Blyth, J. V. G. (1928)—Mahratta Light Infantry.
Hamilton, A. F. (1928)—R.A.F.
Barnett, N. (1929) Royal Scots.
Blyth, G. F. (1929)—R.E.
Dilly, F. R. (1929)—Light A.A. Regt. (R.A.).
Henderson, M. R. (1929)—R.A.
High, D. (1929)—
Marshall, W. K. F. (1929)—R.A.F.
Montford, E. L. (1929)—R.A.F.
Mackay, R. A. (1929)—Royal Marines.
Orr, W. L. (1929)—Fleet Air Arm.
Scott, R. B. (1929)—R.A.
Pearson, J. (1929)—Royal Merchant Navy.
Wilson, J. W. R. (1929)—Royal Tank Regt.
Millar, G. R. (1930)—R.A.M.C.
Fleming, D. (1931)—Royal Dorset Regt.
Scott, R. G. (1931)—K.O.S.B.
Barnett, S. (1932)—R.A.
Elliott, E. S. (1932)—Light A.A. Regt. (R.A.).
Grant, J. B. (1932)—R.A.F.
Halliburton, G. W. (1932)—K.O.S.B.
Morrison, N. L. (1932)—R.A.F.
Scott, P. (1932)—R.A.F.
Smith, S. S. (1933)—Royal Lancs. Fusiliers.
Inglis, R. A. (1933)—A. and S. H.
Aitken, J. (1933)—Royal Corps of Signals.
Aitken, M. (1933)—Royal Corps of Signals.
Booth, A. (1933)—Royal Scots.

Cameron R. (1933)—R.A.S.C.
Muir, A. T. (1933)—Royal Merchant Navy.
Binnie, A. (1934)—Royal Tank Regt.
Muir, J. (1934)—H.L.I.
Smith, P. G. (1935)—H.L.I.
Brodie, H. L. (1935)—R.A.F.
Morrison, H. (1935)—R.A.F.
Mills, F. S. (1935)—Fleet Air Arm.
Scroggie, S. (1935)—Scottish Rifles (Cameronians)
Wylie, J. (1935)—R.A.F.
Reid, D. (1936)—Black Watch.
Ure, R.—Royal Marines.
Scroggie, J. (1936)—R.A.S.C.
Brown, J. C. (1936)—R.A.F.
McDonald, D. F. (1936)—R.A.F.
McEwan, R. (1936)—Royal Merchant Navy.
Walker, J. (1936)—R.A.F.
Loudon, D. (1937)—R.A.F.
Grant, A. (1938)—
Cunningham, M. R. S. (1939)—R.A.F.
Richards, R. G. (1939)—R.A.F.
Spence, Miss E.—Queen Alexandra Imperial Medical Nursing Servlce.
Murray, Miss J.—Queen Alexandra Imperial Medical Nursing Service.
McDougall, Miss M.—W.R.N.S.
McKenzie, Miss D.—W.A.A.F.
O'Donnell, Miss P.—W.A.A.F.
Thomson, Miss B.—W.A.A.F.

PRISONER OF WAR.

Aitken, M. (1933)—at St. Valery on 12th June, 1940.

DEATHS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Killed in action in June, 1940, 2nd Lieut. Peter George Smith (1934), H.L.I., aged 20.
Killed on Active Service in January, 1941, Pilot-Officer J. M. S. Wylie (1935), R.A.F., aged 21.

AWARDS.

Grant, J. B. (1932)—Sq.-Ldr., R.A.F.,
"Distinquished Flying Cross"—"Mentioned in Despatches."
Loudon, D. (1937)—Corporal, R.A.F.,
"Mentioned in Despatches."
Mackenzie, Deidre—Flt.-Sgt., W.A.A.F.
"Mentioned in Despatches."

Mr G. W. ROWE, M.A., Cantab.

In the life of every school from time to time there comes a day when events necessitate the entry of a new headmaster. Such a day has again come to John Watson's, for on the resignation of Major Naismith, after sixteen years' service with the School, Mr G. W. Rowe was selected from a long list of candidates to succeed him.

Mr Rowe's appointment will immediately recall to memory the much respected late Mr George Rowe who was Headmaster from 1858-1897. Although in no way related, like the latter, Mr Rowe has Cornish connections, but his forefathers left that district many years ago.

Mr Rowe who was a scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge, comes to us with a fine reputation from Edinburgh Academy, to which school he was appointed in October, 1925. The high esteem with which he was regarded during his time there can best be conveyed by quoting an extract from the *Edinburgh Academy Chronicle*, which says of him. " It was not long before he had established a reputation as a teacher of exceptional ability and a strong disciplinarian who, not afraid of work himself, would be satisfied with nothing but the best from his pupils. His teaching and influence have been to a large extent responsible for the many open Classical Scholarships gained by Academy boys in recent years and he has set a high standard for his successors."

A University Don was once heard to remark, "Men who come to us from Rowe do know their stuff;" and those who have had to meet him, book in hand, before school or after lunch outside the Master's Lodge would be bound to admit that if they didn't " know their stuff " it wasn't Rowe's fault.

Let it not be thought, however, that Mr Rowe's pursuits are purely academic. Besides being a very keen gardener, while he was at the Academy he took a great active interest in the O.T.C.; and further, until his departure to Marchmont he was in command of a Company in the 6th City of Edinburgh Battalion Home Guard.

Such then is the man who now guides the destinies of John Watson's; and in assuring Mr Rowe of its full support in his work, the Club is certain that he will maintain the fine traditions of the School.

MAJOR J. O. NAISMITH, D.S.O., M.A., HEADMASTER, 1925 to 1941.

I think his "Staff" (EDITOR—Senior boys and girls who assisted Major Naismith in his secretarial duties) knew the Major best, the pupils who helped him to do the work he created for himself, urged by a tireless versatility, "Doodie" Ure who kept up the huge graph showing how many barrowloads had been wheeled squeaking from the Trench, and "Gandhi" Binnie who balanced the cash books with their twopence-worths of List.

What the bulk of the school thought of him depended on their age. To the Lower School he was a vaguely terrifying person, armed by some mystic authority with a sucky cane. The Upper School saw another Major. True, this one would fly off the handle when someone smashed the bust of Sir Walter Scott. But shortly he would be the robustious man again, sucking his "spyglass" at a high desk, and delivering himself of some twinkling jest.

The Lower School never knew the Major; the Upper School were getting warm. His "Staff" were accorded the intrinsic Major, and they greatly regarded him.

They did not know, of course, what he was doing for John Watson's; that it was he who slammed shut one era and opened a new. They only grasped his originality and recognised his leadership. In John Watson's one century reached into the next. This Headmaster ousted the tyranny of stiff collars and brown Norfolk jackets: they did not know that. They only saw a man with a strange passion for shiny new things, and the raggle taggle industry of the Study. Why, he could hardly find time to cane you. While the Major sat planning recognition for John Watson's they only saw him in his Coat of Many Colours, humming Carmen and getting the rugger scores up-to-date. They did not quite realise that under his guidance 7 boys had gained scholarships to Fettes College (5 being there at the same time) and 3 to Imperial Services College, Windsor.

But they did see ideas tumbling over themselves on his desk: and oddly loved the short, ox-strong, swarthy man, with his practical hands, his gadgets, his humour, his forgotten cigarette, and his flair for giving you something always rather exciting to do.

John Oliver Naismith was born at Chirnside in the Borders in 1884. One wonders what his feelings were when, in 1891 with the death of his father fresh in his mind, he passed the Lodge and entered the strange realm of John Watson's. New Boy was never an enviable classification. There would be room only for speculation on the immediate, dire-seeming future. No premonition of 1925 here; only the certainty of home against unfathomableness of this stern, grey-pillared building.

But the fascination of John Watson's, as it has so many others, surely pervaded him too with the slow passage of the years. How

many times in dormitory when the lights were out and the wind rustled the Kiddern trees, was a master's lot coveted and his splendid powers analysed, far into the night?

The change from Mr Rowe to Mr Langhorne (cataclysmic as such a school event is): did it not suggest to young John Naismith that Mr Langhorne must also be succeeded? And is not the name J. O. Naismith, boldly written under a drawer of the First Section desk, more than merely symbolic? He left next year, in 1898.

The Big Boy of John Watson's has to adjust his values then. This is the cruel test of all his training. In his new school he is nobody. John Naismith's character took him through this test. After George Watson's we find him at Edinburgh University; president of the Diagnostic Debating Society, a rugby man, and in the O.T.C. Battery which won the championship of Great Britain for heavy artillery and the King's Shield, three years running. He graduated M.A. in 1906.

Divinity studies followed—had not his father been Minister of Chirnside?—and on 3rd August, 1914, he preached his first and last sermon at St. Boswell's U.F. Church. The Archduke Ferdinand was already dead.

Major Naismith joined the B.E.F. in September. Later at the high First Seccy desk, he would say how he enjoyed these days in the first world war; would tell the story of the German airman's telescope when Latin flagged. "I had to give it back," he grumbled. He was three times mentioned in despatches; won his D.S.O. in 1917. The Armistice put paid to a Staff job, to which end he had been sent to the Ordnance College and the Arsenal.

Then, in the troublous years of the early twenties, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and Sandhurst; and so—whether boyhood dream or grown-up whim—John Watson's.

Bowler hat, umbrella, lemon gloves, and bag of sweets on Sunday; handkerchief up sleeve, visible in chapel on a bitter Monday morning; the scrunch of gravel sometime after Rising-bell; veins bulging over some boulder in the Trench; swift, little writing, jaggedly chalked; cigarette smoke trailed into Latin; strong heel-beats on stone flags; a loud voice shouting; sturdy fingers showing and getting things done; marks on Saturday morning (they decided the High Room's slave); elbows on blotting-pad, ear boosted forward to catch an answer. This Major Naismith rises above his brass plate.

E.3. 1935.

THE CLUB CASH STATEMENTS (Abbreviated)

for Year Ending 30th November, 1941.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Investments (including Dr Crawford Watson's Bequest £150)	£424 9 1	Present Value	£441 10 10

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Balance at 1st November, 1940	24 4 7	*The Levite*	£15 16 0
Subscriptions	29 5 0	Bursaries, Medals, etc.	19 11 5
Donations, etc.	22 11 7	Stationery, etc.	9 4 7
		Balance	31 9 2
	£76 1 2		£76 1 2

F.P. DEVELOPMENT FUND.

By Grant to Traditional Fund	£67 16 9
Balance	426 14 5
	£494 11 2

F.P. TRADITION FUND.

Balance at 30th November, 1940	£23 7 11	John Watson's School	£100 0 0
Donations—Tax Recovery ...	99 0 4	Expenses	3 18 0
Development Fund	67 16 9	Balance	86 7 0
	£190 5 0		£190 5 0

F.P. RECREATION FUND.

Investments	£728 0 0	Present Value	£807 11 11

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Balance	£44 6 11	Teams Travelling	£3 0 0
Dividends, etc	14 0 4	Athletic Outfits	18 2 8
		Balance	37 4 7
	£58 7 3		£58 7 3

F.P. FOUNDATIONERS' FUND.

Investments £676 16 11

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Deposit	£58 9 1	Trust Deed Stamp	£1 16 0
Dividends, etc.	19 0 5	Mr Maclachlan's Fees for 4 Yrs.	21 0 0
Tax Recovery	22 10 2	Balance	77 3 8
	£99 19 8		£99 19 8

These Accounts were Audited by J. D. W. Spence, Esq., C A.

THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council has pleasure in presenting its 40th Annual Report to the members. The conditions which prevail in war time naturally tend to lessen the attention of the members to Club affairs but the Council is glad to report that the Club has continued to receive such loyal support during the past year as to allow the Tradition and other Funds to carry out the commitments entered into before September 1939.

The sustained effort is particularly gratifying in view of the coming of a new Headmaster to the School. Immediately Mr G. W. Rowe was appointed to that post, the Club sent him its cordial congratulations and an assurance that it would heartily support him in the difficult work which he is undertaking at this time. Mr Rowe has been made an honorary member of the Club and has expressed his cordial appreciation.

The Council could not expect that the Club subscriptions would be kept up to date when the life of the Watson Community is so disturbed although it would remind the members that these payments are vital to the existence of the Club. It feels all the more that a tribute should be paid to the Old Boys and Girls who have not only met their annual subscription but have so faithfully given to the F.P. Tradition Fund. In spite of war conditions not an original contributor to this Fund has failed to meet his or her obligations—except through death—a record of which they might be proud. It is also pleasing to report that the pupils as they leave school have joined the Club ranks with great good will, and the total membership now stands at 307, made up of 187 Old Boys and 120 Old Girls.

The Council much regrets to record the deaths of Pilot Officer J. McD. S. Wylie and Second Lieut. P. G. Smith, both in the service of their country. A tribute to the former has already been paid in the Club Magazine.

The Spring number of *The Levite* was a well-merited success as it endeavoured to convey the kind of information which is sought after by the Former Pupils.

The Council has pleasure in reporting that the Club War Memorial Bursar this year is Mr Ian M. Grant and the Miss Murray Memorial Bursar is Miss Moyra Rutherford.

The Club presented the following medals and prizes on the Vacation Day in July last :—

School Dux Medal	Donald McLure.
Dux Girl Medal	Pamela Winter.
Rowe Memorial Medal for Religious Knowledge	Catriona Grant.
Langhorne Memorial Medal for Latin . .	Donald McLure.
Ronaldson Prize for Writing . . .	Euphemia Gomez.
School Sports Championship Prize . .	Graham Brodie.

As far as is known 50 Old Boys and 4 Old Girls are now serving with the Forces, and the Council would earnestly urge all members to intimate from time to time their latest addresses so that they may be kept in touch with the Club.

By order of the Council,

A. D. MURRAY, *Secretary.*

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held at 21 Pitt Street, Edinburgh, on the Afternoon of Saturday, 31st January. Besides the attendance of some 25 Levites the proceedings were listened to with interest by Mr E. M. Wedderburn, D.K.S., Mr C. F. M. Maclachlan, and Miss Lillias C. Johnston, representing the School Directors, and by Mr G. W. Rowe and Miss M. Lawson, representing the School.

The Chairman. Mr D. M. Thomson, after welcoming all those present, especially Mr Rowe, the new Headmaster, said that the Club owed a great debt to Miss Bruce for her readiness in offering her home for the meeting and for all the forethought she had taken to ensure the comfort of those present and in the name of the Club he sincerely thanked her. He said he was gratified to see so many members present, especially some of those who had only recently left John Watson's to carry on that name in other schools. Levites too were upholding the honour of the School on the field of battle and he was glad to say that three Levites had recently been honoured for their services to their country.

The business proper opened with the submission of the Council's Report and the Club's Cash Statements for the year ended 30th November, 1941. In both these reports it was seen that Club affairs continued to maintain a high level and unanimous approval was given to both. The next item on the agenda was the election of office-bearers, and here it was evident that the general desire was that in these difficult days the Club management should as far as possible be left in the hands of those at present in office.

The office-bearers elected for the ensuing year were as follows :

President—D. M. Thomson.

Vice-Presidents—

Miss Jean Bruce, M.B.E., and G. D. S. Forsyth, M. A.

Secretary—A. D. Murray, P.A.S.I.

Deputy Secretary—Miss J. Rhind., M.A.

Treasurer—W. R. Menzies.

Editor of the Levite—G. R. Millar, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

Members of Council—Professor W. B. Stevenson, Professor O. S. Rankin D. L. G. Hunter, Miss W. L. Gellatly, Miss D. Drysdale, Miss C. Paton and Mrs Foot.

Continuance of the presentation of bronze and silver medals to the School on the summer Vacation day was sanctioned and it was also agreed that the Miss Murray and War Memorial Bursaries should again be awarded to deserving boy and girl applicants.

On the suggestion of Mr Jas. Muirhead, Mr Rowe was invited to address a few words to the company regarding the welfare of the School at Marchmont House. Mr Rowe after thanking the Club on behalf of Miss Lawson and himself for inviting them both to be present, said he felt it was a great thing for a school to have a strong F.P. Club and he would greatly value any support the John Warson Club could give him in his work. He said life at Marchmont House seemed to consist mainly of sledging—recently it had been potato picking which if of great value to the war effort was nevertheless not calculated to further the smooth running of the School. In his first term perhaps what had impressed him most was the vast amount of reading done by the pupils. Time was never idle on their hands and this term the chess habit was in vogue along with many other instructive amusements. The standard of work was high and in lighter hours they had held a Hallowe'en party (even without apples) and a Burns' supper.

In closing the proceedings the Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for his interesting words and assured him of the support of the Club at all times.

THE REUNION.

The phrase " Annual General Meeting " has rather a grim foreboding tone and seems to conjure up a vision of men and women with drooping eyebrows and gloomy expressions seated with serious intent discussing the business of the day. Though such is not the case. The word " Reunion " on the other hand can only suggest gaiety, gladness of heart and the infinite joy of meeting old friends. Such therefore was the mood in which the Reunion took place, after the Annual General Meeting was over.

To share our enjoyment we had with us Mr E. M. Wedderburn, Mr C. F. M. Maclachlan, Miss L. C. Johnston, Mr G. W. Rowe and Miss Lawson.

As if to feed our happy mood our hostess, Miss Bruce, had provided, in her drawing-room, a feast which would no doubt have horrified Lord Woolton if he had cast his eyes on it. Over cups of tea, delicious sandwiches and dainty cakes we moved from person to person exchanging greetings, swapping yarns and listening to reminiscences of school days which perhaps we had heard before but which nevertheless held us spellbound. Here a group of girls, not long Levites, could be seen in eager conversation—there could be seen two men who had left John Watsons many years before these selfsame

girls were born, deep also in talk, but the subject was in each group the same—John Watson's.

And so it went on until at length we were called to silence to listen to a parlour game in which a team of six gentlemen were opposed by a team of six ladies. The chief qualification of the members of the teams seemed to be that they were either Professors, school teachers or ex-school dux medallists. Let it not be thought however that such a "galaxy of stars" had an easy journey for many ingenious questions were asked of them. Questions such as "How many coupons are required for a pair of ladies' silk stockings" (this for a gentleman) or "Give the names of Snow White's Seven Dwarfs," or "What did the Prime Minister say in 1875" (Mamma ! of course) were asked and on occasion answered without so much as a tremor of an eyelid. More often many a puzzled expression could be seen, many an appealing look for guidance was cast at the inscrutable mask of the question-master and many too were the laughs we had. At length this desperate encounter ended in a narrow victory for the gentlemen by one quarter of a point and still in happy mood we went our many ways. Another war-time Reunion was ended.

2nd LIEUT. P. G. SMITH.

In war the battles near to home seem much more real than those fought in distant lands and seas. In the same way the deaths of thousands unknown to us personally cause less consternation than the death of one we knew.

To me, as perhaps to some other Levites, the death of "Pete" Smith was one of the first calamities to bring home the uneven tragedy of war. As a contemporary of his at John Watson's, I, like many others, had come to value his friendship deeply. Inherent in him were the true qualities of a friend. He was naturally generous ; and here, as in other things, it is often the little points that stand out; many of us can recall the occasions when, on receiving parcels of "shop," he would share the contents unselfishly with his fellows. This trait, added to his attractive and sincere personality made him one whom others came naturally to trust and rely on. Such are the basic necessities for leadership.

Combining a sound intelligence with good physique and skill in sport, "Pete" would do well any job he took on. His contemporaries at "J.W." will remember him as Scottish Junior Indian Clubs Champion in 1933. During his time at Hillhead High School he continued his excellent rugger record to attain a high place in the 1st XV. At the same time he became Company Sergeant-Major in the O.T.C. October 1938 saw him at Glasgow University starting on an Arts course preparatory to studying Law. But, as with many other students, his course was interrupted by the burden of military duties,

when he went to an O.C.T.U., in December 1939. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry, he went to France, and in June 1940, was killed, aged twenty years.

"Pete" Smith was the youngest of three brothers and two sisters, all except one educated at John Watson's.

The deepest sympathy of all Levites go out to them and to his mother, who kept an ever-open house for all his old school friends.

F.S.M.

HUMOROUS ASPECTS OF ARMY LIFE.

I have just received a letter from a friemd in the Army (a mere " one pipper " moreover !) which strikes me as a little masterpiece on the humorous aspects of Army life. In some ways I should have liked to send it on to the Editor, and, pretending it was my own work, sign it with my own seal. Yet I have a fragment of conscience left and will not submit to an action which might be described by a critic as " a monument of painstaking plagiarism." This particularly biting phrase was once appended, in red ink, to an essay of mine on " English Literary Humorists " whose contents I borrowed, almost word for word, from J. B. Priestley's book on the same subject. I am not going to lay myself open to such abuse again so I shall launch myself, under my own steam, upon the uncertain seas of this article. If I fail to convey any comic sentiment, please believe that there are abundant humorous episodes in Army life and, though there's much that's foolish there's also much that's fun. In the meanest billet, in the most tawdry Officers' mess and in the clammiest tent G.S., there is always a token of what Chesterton described as " the divine madness we call laughter."

As in civil life, army humour has its categories. There is the delicate type of humour, often so delicate that nobody appreciates what you are laughing at and merely thinks that you are being impolite. This is *Punch* personified, beloved by the British people and hated by the less nimble, more cow-like intellects of the Wilhelmstrasse. There is too the broad fun of horseplay, Charlie Chaplin's forte and Harold Lloyd's fortune. Everybody sniggers if the R.S.M. gives the wrong word of command or if an officer salutes with his left hand. (I did this myself at the Training Depot and know the full ignominy of the situation !) Finally there is the vulgar Rabelaisian humour which one hears from time to time in society high and low. Of this last type I shall not speak as I am considered to be an officer and a gentleman. (Domestic—"There is an officer and a gentleman to see you." Lady of the House.—" Well, Mary, show them both in!")

Here are a few things that my little unit of the Army think funny. I hope you do!

To see an Acting Unpaid Lance-Corporal reduced to the ranks.

To unravel messages such as this one.—" The A.A. & Q.M.G. (Ack and Quack) presents his compliments to the D.A.D.'s M.S. and hopes that they will expedite the delivery of all I. 1248 equipment to the C.S.D. w.e.f. 18.00 hrs. STOP. Ack."

To appear at the C.O.'s inspection on Saturday with unpolished buttons, broken bootlaces, uncut hair, deficient hat badge, stubble beard—in short to contravene every disciplinary requirement—and get away without being spotted.

To dish out nicknames to contemporaries (I am called Mick after a famous greyhound). One of the officers was known as " Just Jake " (see *Daily Mirror* comic strips). " Pinocchio " or " The Mascot " is our Transport Officer. Perhaps our most distinguished nickname has been given to a private with a large, philosophic head and enormous fund of general knowledge. He is known and loved as " The Brains Trust."

The wheedling of the Quarter Master (Honest Joe) by stealth, bribery, corruption or six half-pints at the " Plough " into making up a deficiency of equipment. (A Q.M.'s conscience is something to be marvelled at—it is one of the most delicate mental machines ever known).

To pretend to civilian friends that we have the " low-down " on strategic matters and that we know the exact date on which Councillor ———— will hoist his party's flag in the Berlin suburbs.

Here is an incident in which I found myself chief actor. Picture a dark, marshy heath at 3 a.m. We were on exercise with an infantry battalion. An enemy patrol was sent in among us to create confusion. They were wearing soft caps while we sported steel helmets. As they passed in the dim light I put on a soft cap and escaped capture (very subtle, I thought). Under the enemy attack I imagined that my ambulance had been taken by the enemy so I spent two hours on my stomach, deep in water, everywhere stung by nettles, treated harshly by the reedy grasses, scraped by tree barks, apprehensive of every stirring sound in the woods. In the course of eighty minutes I travelled about a hundred yards towards my wagon and at the last moment was challenged by a sentry who turned out to be my own ambulance driver standing guard. The enemy had paid no attention to us at all, having beaten up the battalion headquarters and made short work of the C.O., the Adjutant and most of the Staff Officers. Thus efficiently and bravely does the R.A.M.C. discharge its duties " Per cascara ad astra."

" Time would fail me to tell," as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, of all the humorous episodes which occur in Army life. To the discerning eye they are many and go a long way to reducing the tedium of the martial hours. Let the Jeremiah's intone their Il Penserosos. To those who have eyes to see and ears to hear there is but one imperious Order of the Day " Hence loathed Melancholy."

G.R.M. (Lt. R.A.M.C.)

Club Talk

Martin Aitken (1933) who was with the Royal Corps of Signals in France in 1940 was taken prisoner at St. Valery on12th June of that year and is now a prisoner of war in Germany. Levites could help to brighten his time of waiting by writing to him. Letters should contain only one sheet of paper written on both sides in pencil and should be addressed to Sign. T. M. Aitken, 17087, Stalag XXA (1), Deutschland.

His elder brother " Jock " was also in France but he escaped from Le Havre and for some time has been in Malaya. No news of his safety has yet been received.

Rev. J. A. S. Wilson (1890) after many years of service has retired from his charge of the Parish of Tealing, near Dundee.

Prof. Charles McNeil (1896) was recently again elected as President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

R. A. Inglis (1933) volunteered and has served a period in the famous " Commandos."

A recent visitor to Edinburgh was J. R. Johnston (1921) now serving with the Royal Australian Navy.

Mrs J. H. McLaren (Mairi McRury) who has for some years been in the Far East at Hong Kong has been evacuated to safety in Sydney, Australia.

J. T. Campbell (1905) has been appointed General Manager and Actuary of the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia in Melbourne, Australia. He is now in Melbourne accompanied by his wife and family and he took up his appointment on 1st October, 1941. Mrs Campbell before her marriage was Edith Ferrie, and is also a Levite.

7 Girls and 8 Boys, nearly all Levites of 1941, have joined the Club.

Miss Pat Smith is now studying for her M.A. degree at St. Andrews University.

Levites are to be found serving with the Forces in places as far widespread as Malta, Egypt, U.S.A., Sudan, Iraq, Malaya, Egypt, S. Africa, East Africa, Gold Coast, Ceylon.

The honour of being the oldest Levite in the Home Guard must now be given to H. D. Saxby (1883) in succession to Chas. S. Pennell (1888).

Donald McLure (1941) and Graham Brodie (1941) play Rugby for the 1st XV.'s of Dollar Accademy and Hillhead High School respectively.

John T. Milne (1870) the senior member of the Club died last July. The sympathy of all Levites is extended to his widow and family .

S. Barnett (1932), R. A. Mackay (1929), G. R. Millar (1930) and Dorothea M. Ogilvie have all recently entered into the bonds of matrimony.

Miss Johan Rhind is now a teacher in one of the Edinburgh Education Authority Schools.

The following latest statistics may be of interest :—

Approximately 21% of all Club members are in the Forces.

26 Levites are of commissioned rank.

Of 71 Levites on service 10 are in the R.A.F. and 8 in the R.A.

15 Levites are serving overseas.

The youngest Levite on service is R. G. Richards (1939) and the oldest, J. A. Crawford (1907).

The Miss Murray Memorial Bursary for 1941 was awarded to Miss Moyra Rutherford and the War Memorial Bursary for 1941 was awarded to Ian Grant. Miss Rutherford hopes to take up a professional career and Ian Grant, who is at Kelly College, Tavistock, intends to proceed to University and later go into Holy Orders.

A few F.P. club ties are still to be had, price 4s. each. No coupons are required and application should be made to the Secretary.

School Notes

BOYS' PAGE.

The war has continued to bring many changes to the School. The loss of Major Naismith in April last, after his sixteen years of service to John Watson's, and we wish him all success and happiness with the Home Guard, was followed by an interregnum during the summer term with Miss Lawson in charge, until in September his work was taken over by Mr Rowe. Meantime Mr Lilburn had been called up in August, and, after two brief terms at Marchmont, Mr Crawford left. In their place we are fortunate to have the services of Mr T. A. Morrison-Cleator, Ph.D., and, in the science room, Mr T. Kirk, B.Sc.

The great features of the autumn term were the welcome return of Captain and Mrs McEwen and their household to their home at Marchmont, and the potato gathering done for the neighbouring farmers, a national service which was at once highly disturbing to the normal routine and highly remunerative and popular. A good deal of hard weather was calmly endured by squads of boys and girls in wellingtons and dungarees, journeying to the fields sometimes on foot or bicycle, sometimes in the farmer's car or straw-lined lorry or trailer. The Red Cross ultimately benefited by a substantial cheque, and a special gift was sent to Mrs Churchill's fund for Russia.

Indoor recreation has largely been taken in reading and latterly chess and a first debate. On Sunday evenings Miss MacIntyre gave a series of talks on music and its appreciation, which we hope will be continued when the thermometer rises. Parties at Hallowe'en and Christmas were followed by a Burns' night, with white pudding at midday dinner doing duty for haggis. One memorable evening our

host and Member of Parliament himself spoke to the school about the War, and for nearly an hour answered a hail of questions. We thank him, too, and Mrs McEwen for many other kindnesses, and also certain faithful friends of the school for gifts of stamps, games and books.

So far the Rugger and Hockey seasons have been disappointing. The few matches played have been lost, though we gave our opponents a good game, whatever the scores may suggest ; the cause of our weakness is partly lack of confidence, after the loss of last year's prominent players, and partly interruption to practice by potato picking or bad weather. Since Christmas there has been no play at all, and sledging and skating have taken its place, with occasional runs. In September, last year's school garden was relinquished, and a new plot has been taken over near the kennels. Most of this is old pasture, with thick tussocks of matted grass, which makes very heavy going for the spade, and the part that had been cultivated has gone back to weeds and nettles. Gardening weather has been rare, except during the Christmas holidays, when no labour was available, and consequently the preparation of the ground is still to be completed. This, with potato gathering, has been the school's chief contribution to the war effort. As time goes by, it will perhaps be possible to increase and extend our usefulness.

GIRLS' PAGE.

Time has ambled on very happily here since the last magazine was published ; but life has not been without event, and John Watson's has seen a few changes.

Chief among these was the return of Captain and Mrs McEwen and their delightful family to Marchmont, where they now share their beautiful house with us. They live in a single slice of the house and we overflow all the rest ; but neither our noise, necessary and unnecessary, nor our open coat-locker doors, nor radiators covered with damp scarves and gloves have ever called forth one word of criticism or reproach.

We were fortunate in having a warm and sunny summer term. Sports Day and School Concert were held as usual and the prizes and medals were presented by Lord Home. The Decoration of an Old Boy, Gordon G. Jolly was celebrated by a half holiday which was spent at a garden fete at Greenlaw.

The Guides and Brownies have been running for over a year now and are looking forward to their second enrolment. Many happy hours have been spent, indoors at meetings, and out-of-doors stalking and tracking. One Saturday in summer term, the Guides cooked their lunch at the quarry, and one very hot afternoon the Brownies had their picnic. Their choice was a reach of the Blackadder near the Kelso Road. They paddled to their heart's content in sun hats and

knickers. Now both Guides and Brownies have turned their attention to test-work in real earnest, and Guides may be seen practising morse, and Brownies laying tables or learning about the Union Jack.

But life at Marchmont has not all been sunbathing and cricket and picnics. By July, six pairs of pyjamas had been made by the girls for wounded soldiers and eighty ounces of wool knitted into socks. Once more the girls are busily at work on a fresh bundle of wool for the Red Cross, and even the smallest ones are knitting wristlets for the soldiers. Already the older girls are at work on white ankle socks with the school colours on top for themselves for the summer term. In the sewing class, the little girls are making pinafores which we hope will brighten the little dining-room next term ; and they are looking forward to seeing their handiwork on the dressing-table runners they are making for their dormitories.

During the Christmas term the girls took a full share in the potato lifting, and this term has seen an addition to their household duties. Besides clearing the tables, and washing up after every meal, because of a further cut in the domestic staff, the girls have now taken over the sweeping and dusting of all the girls' dormitories.

And so life slips by quickly and quietly here at Marchmont, and with the changing seasons, the children find new pleasures which happily occupy their free time and sent them back to work fresh and keen.

M. LAWSON.

THE JOHN WATSON'S CLUB.

NEW MEMBERS.

1940 Duncan, G. B., 53 Scott Street (top flat), Garnethill, Glasgow.
1940 Cran, O.
1940 Clow, K., 49 Redford Road, Colinton, Edinburgh, 13.
1941 Brodie, G. A ., 7 Carilon Road, Glasgow, S.W.1.
1941 Henderson, A, A., 51 Boswall Drive, Edinburgh, 5.
1941 Munro, W. R., St. Faithes, Newmills, Balerno.
1941 Moncrieff, J. B., 619 Ferry Road, Easter Drylaw, Edinburgh, 4.
1941 McLure, D. N. A., 10 Airdale Crescent, Giffnock, Glasgow.
Gomez, Miss E. W., 10 Dean Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank.
Grant, Miss C., 23 St. Bernards Crescent, Edinburgh, 4.
Nesbit, Miss M., Orchard Cottage, Chatton, Northumberland.
Ramsay, Miss P., " Emsdorf," Promenade, Leven, Fife.
Rutherford, Miss M. M. c/o Menzies, 6 St. Vincent Street. Edinburgh, 3.
Wilkie, Miss J. A. R., 67 Ravelston Dykes, Edinburgh, 12.
Winter, Miss P. E., 27 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, 1.

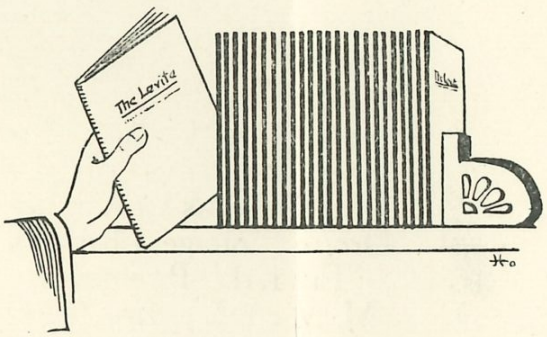
CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1886 Boyd, Professor D. R., Cleveland House, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wilts.
1890 Chapman, J. A., The Wynd, Gayle, Hawes, Yorks.
1905 Campbell, J. T., General Manager, The National Mutual Life Association, Australasia, Ltd., 395 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1, Victoria, Australia.
1939 Dennison, J. R., c/o Dr Sanderson, Biltown, near Castletown, Isle of Man.
1893 Grant, H. K., 36 Mostyn Avenue, Llandudno, N. Wales.
1939 Gunn, J. S., c/o Mrs Davidson, Buckies, Thurso.
Campbell, Mrs J. T. (Edith Ferrie). See J. T. Campbell above.
Chrystal, Miss I., c/o Mrs Watson, 27 Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh, 4.
McLaren, Mrs (Marie McRury), Flat 3, Dunbar, 39 Dover Road, Sydney, Australia.

ADDRESSES WANTED.

1911 Boswell, K. C.—London.
1921 Johnston, D. T.—Dollar.
Duce, Mrs—Norwich.
Fraser, Miss M.—Edinburgh.
Jackson, Miss A.—Glasgow.
McRossan, Mrs—Cardonald.
Nish, Miss—Glasgow.
1909 Muirhead, A. J.—Edinburgh.
1934 Brander, G.—Glasgow.
Forrest, Mrs—Edinburgh.
Gregor, Miss M.—Edinburgh.
McAulay, Mrs—Greenock.
Morgan, Mrs—Barham. near Canterbury.

The Secretary would be glad if anyone knowing any of the above members new address would forward same to him.



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